

**Governor's Family Violence Council**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**100 Community Place**  
**Crownsville, MD 21032**  
**Wednesday, January 29, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Jeanne Yeager, Chair  
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair  
Lillian Agbeyegbe  
Molli Cole for Delegate Haven Shoemaker  
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.  
V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed  
Lt. Diane Hansen for Colonel William Pallozzi  
John McGinnis for Secretary Karen Salmon  
Lisa Nitsch  
Scott Patterson, Esq.  
Manuel Ruiz  
Laure Ruth, Esq.  
David Shultie  
Carrie Williams, Esq. for Attorney General Brian Frosh  
Anne Weatherholt

**Guests:**

Latisha Carter, My Covenant Place  
Stella Lee Coulbourne, For All Seasons  
Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Kristy Mirando, For All Seasons  
Dr. Christopher Murphy, University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Dr. Tara Richards, University of Nebraska Omaha (phone)

**Staff:**

Mary Abraham, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Heather Amador, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Dan Atzmon, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Barbara Darley, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Justice Schisler, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

## **II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Service Updates**

Mr. Fueston informed Board members and guests that the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention has transitioned to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services will be focusing on comprehensive strategies among law enforcement, victim services, and youth communities to positively impact communities as a whole in order to reduce incidents of crime and other traumatic events.

Mr. Fueston addressed a letter that was sent out earlier this month to subrecipients of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund. This letter informed subrecipients of the federal reduction of VOCA funds that will affect Maryland. Maryland has followed a model supported by federal partners to budget VOCA to protect subrecipients against unpredictable fluctuations within the past few years so subrecipients have not yet felt the impact of Maryland's reduction. The letter stated that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services will release a survey to better understand how subrecipients are using VOCA funds and identify needs, and hold listening sessions to hear from the victim services community about how the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services can support them.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services is working through what the reductions will look like, and working to identify new funding opportunities at the State level to support victim service providers. Mr. Fueston encouraged providers to develop sustainability plans, foster collaborative relationships, and focus on performance measures. Mr. Fueston called upon Board members to come together to assist the efforts of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services in formulating long-term strategies to minimize the impact of any future reduction in federal awards.

Ms. Schisler informed Board members that Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) for State grant programs will begin to be posted within the next few weeks, and due dates will be approximately four weeks thereafter. Those include the Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant Program (SOHG), Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Grant Program, Maryland Domestic Violence Grant Program (DOMV), and the Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Grant Program (SARC). These funding sources have a start date of 7/1/2020. Ms. Schisler stated that the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC) subrecipients are in year two of the grant award and letters of intent, pending status of the grant, will be provided in May. NOFAs for federal grant programs will be posted in April, including Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA) and Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG).

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the October 16, 2019 meeting were provided to members and guests. Ms. Nitsch made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Yeager seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

#### **IV. Program Evaluation of Maryland Abuse Intervention Programs**

Dr. Christopher Murphy and Dr. Tara Richards provided a presentation on multiple evaluations they have conducted for Maryland Abuse Intervention Programs (AIPs). In 2015, they started with a process analysis of 20 AIPs and then more recently focused on an outcome analysis. The goal was to identify if program completion is associated with reduction of criminal recidivism. The analysis findings showed that AIP completion has a positive impact on criminal recidivism. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Richards discussed that predictors of poor outcome for AIP completion are unemployment, transportation, behavioral and mental health needs, and substance abuse. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Richards are currently evaluating the service model at House of Ruth Maryland, which has begun incorporating wrap around services including employment, parenting and mental health services for AIP clients.

Council members discussed how important this research is for judges in order to support why offenders should be ordered to complete an AIP.

#### **V. Workgroup Updates**

*a. Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy*

The workgroup has not met since the last Council meeting. A meeting will be scheduled soon for members to review the topics and priorities discussed at the first meeting in order to choose a direction for the workgroup.

*b. Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases*

Ms. Lennig informed members that the workgroup will regroup after the legislative session, revisiting next steps that have been identified.

*c. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification Review Process*

The workgroup met this morning. The workgroup continued to discuss what should be included in guidance for letters of support or memorandum of understanding (MOUs) between abuse intervention programs and domestic violence programs.

#### **VI. Abuse Intervention Programs**

Walden Sierra in St. Mary's County is no longer the comprehensive domestic violence program, and no longer providing AIP services. The Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy has recently been certified as the comprehensive domestic violence and rape crisis center for St. Mary's County. Since there are no other AIPs in the county, the Council has approved an off-cycle AIP certification period for this program. Members of the AIP Certification Workgroup reviewed the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy's AIP certification application, giving the application an average score of 90. Several policies and forms were requested by reviewers and all required documentation was provided in the time frame given. Ms. Yeager made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Nitsch seconded that motion. All members were in favor and the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy was approved to be certified AIP.

Ms. Allyn shared a list of AIP site visits over the next few months. Members are encouraged to assist with these site visits and were asked to notify Ms. Allyn if they are interested to do so.

## **VII. Legislative Updates**

Ms. Lennig provided members with legislative updates related to domestic violence, including the following bills, which the Council provided letters of support for.

- HB 248/SB210 - Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape and Sexual Offenses
  - The bills change the definition of “person eligible for relief” in a protective order to include anyone who alleges s/he is a victim of a rape or sexual offense, clarifying that they are eligible to receive a protective order rather than a peace order.
- HB 233/SB 212 - Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree
  - The bills define strangulation as a felony offense. Strangulation is an indicator of high lethality, and research has shown that it is a precursor to homicide, especially for women. Maryland is one of three states in the country without a felony strangulation law, and Maryland law should reflect the seriousness of the crime.

## **VIII. Old/New Business**

There was no old/new business to discuss.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/vpz-rsav-sdi](https://meet.google.com/vpz-rsav-sdi)

Conference Line: +1 609-434-2242

PIN: 547 385 167#